

Message Text

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SUBJECT: OCT. 28 PRESS ROUNDUP

1. WASHINGTON POST STAFF WRITER ROBERT G. KAISER REPORTED THAT "CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS FACING CONCERTED CONGRESSIONAL POLITICAL ATTACK ON ITS NEW STRATEGIC ARMS AGREEMENTS WITH RUSSIANS AND PROPONENTS NOW CONCEDE THAT SENATE APPROVAL OF PACTS IS IN DOUBT." KAISER SAID POLITICAL ATTACK, LED BY SENATOR JACKSON AND HIS STAFF, IS NOT ONLY REASON NEW ARMS PACTS ARE IN TROUBLE. HE SAID SENATE AND ADMINISTRATION SOURCES BLAME ADMINISTRATION'S "OVER-ALL POLITICAL STANDING, WHICH CURRENTLY IS NOT STRONG, AND ITS INABILITY THUS FAR TO MAKE STRONG CASE FOR NEW AGREEMENTS, WHICH ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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STILL BEING NEGOTIATED IN GENEVA." MANY SOURCES BE THAT ACCORDING TO KAISER, SAY "THERE IS PLAUSIBLE CHANCE THAT JACKSON AND HIS ALLIES COULD CONVINCE 34 SENATORS TO VOTE AGAINST NEW ARMS CONTROL TREATY, THUS PREVENTING ITS RATIFICATION, DRAMATICALLY DISRUPTING SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS PERHAPS IGNITING MULTIBILLION DOLLAR ROUND IN ARMS RACE. SOURCES CLOSE TO JACKSON ACKNOWLEDGE HE IS EXTREMELY UNHAPPY

WITH PACTS AS OUTLINED THUS FAR AND IS TRYING TO PERSUADE ADMINISTRATION TO GO BACK TO RUSSIANS AND ASK TO RENEGOTIATE ASPECTS OF THEM. JACKSON INSISTS HE IS TRYING TO ACT 'CONSTRUCTIVELY,' AND DENIES HE ALREADY OPPOSES NEW AGREEMENT. BUT HE ADDS THAT HE'LL KNOW 'IN WEEK OR SO' WHETHER ADMINISTRATION HAS AGREED TO TRY TO IMPROVE ON AGREEMENTS BEFORE SUBMITTING THEM TO SENATE -- APPARENTLY WARNING. ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS CHARGE THAT JACKSON AND HIS INFLUENTIAL AIDE, RICHARD PERLE, HAVE MANIPULATED NEWS ACCOUNTS AND OTHERWISE PLANTED SEEDS OF DOUBT AND DISTRUST AROUND WASHINGTON IN HOPES OF DISRUPTING OR DRASTICALLY ALTERING ADMINISTRATION POLICY. KEY SENATE AIDE SYMPATHETIC TO ADMINISTRATION AND ITS NEW ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS SAID THEIR CHANCES 'ARE IN 50-50 RANGE RIGHT NOW.' SEVERAL KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES ARGUED THAT JACKSON'S GOAL MAY NOT BE REJECTION OF NEW PACTS, BUT SOME SORT OF RIDER OR SENSE-OF-SENATE RESOLUTION TYING ADMINISTRATION'S HANDS FOR NEXT ROUND OF SALT. POLITICAL SITUATION EVOLVING AROUND NEW SALT AGREEMENTS IS ALMOST AS COMPLEX AS AGREEMENTS THEMSELVES, DETAILS OF WHICH HAVE BEEN LEAKED AND HAVE APPEARED IN NEWS ACCOUNTS. THERE WILL BE DISPUTES NOT ONLY ABOUT CONTENT OF PACTS, BUT ABOUT WAY THEY HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATED. ADMINISTRATION AND ITS ALLIES IN SENATE WILL ARGUE THAT NEW AGREEMENTS ARE GOOD ONES, CONTAINING SIGNIFICANT SOVIET CONCESSIONS, NUMERICAL REQUALITY BETWEEN SUPERPOWERS AND NEW SOURCES OF STABILITY IN ARMS RACE. JACKSON AND OTHER

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OPPONENTS CAN BE EXPECTED TO CRITICIZE AGREEMENTS AS TOO GENEROUS TO SOVIETS, TOO DIFFICULT TO VERIFY AND TOO FAR REMOVED FROM ADMINISTRATION'S PREVIOUS STATEMENTS ON WHAT NEW AGREEMENTS SHOULD CONTAIN, AMONG OTHER COMPLAINTS. BOTH SIDES ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THERE ARE AT LEAST 20 TO 25 SENATORS WHO WILL VOTE AGAINST AGREEMENTS ALMOST REGARDLESS OF WHAT THEY SAY, AND ABOUT 40 WHO CAN BE EXPECTED TO VOTE FOR THEM. THAT LEAVES ABOUT 35 SENATORS WHO WILL DECIDE OUTCOME.... ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTERS ALL SEEM TO AGREE THAT BEST CASE THEY CAN MAKE FOR THEIR NEW AGREEMENTS IS 'BIG PICTURE,' IN WORDS OF ONE SENATE AIDE. "THEY HAVE BETTER ARGUMENTS THAN THEY HAVE YET MADE," SAID ANOTHER SENATE AIDE, WHO EXPRESSED DISMAY THAT PRESIDENT HAS NOT DECIDED WHAT KEY ELEMENTS OF SITUATION ARE AND HOW BEST TO EXPRESS THEM. JACKSON AND HIS ASSOCIATES WILL DISPUTE ADMINISTRATION VERSION OF THAT BIG PICTURE, BUT THEY ARE LIKELY TO CONCENTRATE ON DETAILS OF PACTS AND WAY THEY WERE NEGOTIATED. SOURCES IN JACKSON CAMP MAKE NO SECRET OF THEIR DISTRUST OF WARNKE AND LESLIE H. GELB, STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL MOST INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN SALT TALKS. ADMINISTRATION'S ALLIES BEMOAN FACT THAT CARTER SEEMED TO BUILD UP JACKSON'S ROLE IN SALT PROCESS LAST SPRING BY VISI-

BLY CONSULTING HIM OFTEN AND DRAFTING MARCH COMPREHENSIVE PROPOSALS TO SOVIETS LARGELY FROM 23-PAGE MEMORANDUM PREPARED BY JACKSON. NOW ADMINISTRATION APPEARS DIVIDED ON HOW TO DEAL WITH JACKSON. SOME OFFICIALS ADVOCATE TRYING TO ISOLATE HIM, ACCEPTING HIS OPPOSITION TO TREATIES BUT NOT ACCEPTING WHAT ONE CALLED 'MYTH' THAT JACKSON CONTROLS LOTS OF SENATE VOTES ON NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES. BUT SOME OFFICIALS FEAR CARTER WILL SHY AWAY FROM CONFRONTATION WITH JACKSON, HURTING PROSPECTS FOR HIS TREATY IN PROCESS. 'THEY CAN'T FIGURE ME OUT,' JACKSON SAID WITH SMILE IN AN INTERVIEW. 'THEY DON'T KNOW HOW TO HANDLE ME.' 'WE'RE SINCERELY TRYING TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE,' HE ADDED."

2. PRESIDENT CARTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT THAT U.S. UNCLASSIFIED

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WOULD SUPPORT MANDATORY U.N. SANCTIONS AGAINST ALL ARMS SALES TO SOUTH AFRICA RECEIVED WIDE PRESS PLAY. WASHINGTON POST CORRESPONDENT DAVID OTTAWAY, IN DISPATCH FROM LUSAKA, POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT "WESTERN ARMS EMBARGO ON SOUTH AFRICA NOW IN MAKING COMES FAR TOO LATE TO HAVE ANY SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THAT COUNTRY'S ABILITY TO WAGE CONVENTIONAL OR GUERRILLA WAR AGAINST OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES OR ITS OWN BLACK POPULATION IN THE FORSEEABLE FUTURE." OTTAWAY SAID KEY NATION IN SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF ANY NEW EMBARGO NOW IS FRANCE, "BY FAR MOST IMPORTANT SOURCE OF ARMS AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE FOR SOUTH AFRICA AND MAIN PROVIDER OF LICENSES FOR ITS MANUFACTURE OF SUCH THINGS AS ARMORED CARS AND JETS." OTTAWAY SAID "IT SEEMS THAT FAR MORE EFFECTIVE MEASURES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA AT THIS TIME WOULD BE SUCH THINGS AS AN EMBARGO ON LOANS AND OTHER ECONOMIC STEPS, ECONOMY IS ALREADY IN RECESSION AND FACING AN ELEVEN PERCENT INFLATION RATE, SO THIS SECTOR IS FAR MORE VULNERABLE THAN COUNTRY'S MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT."

3. BERNARD WEINRAUB OF NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT SOVIET UNION HAD STAGED ITS THIRD APPARENTLY SUCCESSFUL TEST OF NEW WEAPON THAT COULD DESTROY U.S. SATELLITES. "WE HAVE PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS THAT SOVIETS LAUNCHED AN ANTI-SATELLITE INTERCEPTOR ON WEDNESDAY AGAINST TARGET SATELLITE," PENTAGON STATEMENT SAID. "PRESUMABLY SUCCESSFUL INTERCEPT OCCURRED." WEINRAUB SAID "TO PENTAGON OFFICIALS, DEVELOPMENT INDICATES THAT SOVIET UNION IS EXTENDING ITS LEAD OVER U.S. IN SATELLITE-DESTROYING WEAPONRY. BOTH COUNTRIES RELY ON SATELLITES TO MONITOR MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS AND KEEP TRACK OF MISSILE DEPLOYMENTS AND TESTS. U.S. DOES NOT EXPECT TO HAVE AN ANTI-SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY IN OPERATION FOR FIVE MORE YEARS." WEINRAUB SAID WEDNESDAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT WAS FIRST TIME THAT PENTAGON HAD VOLUNTEERED UNCLASSIFIED

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INFORMATION ON SUCH TEST, "APPARENTLY INDICATING SOME CONCERN."

4. DREW MIDDLETON, WRITING IN NEW YORK TIMES, COMMENTED ON SEVERAL PROBLEMS BESETTING ATLANTIC ALLIANCE: "ITS PRESENT AND FUTURE STRENGTH IN RELATION TO SOVIET FORCES, CRITICISM OF AMERICAN CONCEPT OF NATO, AND SERIOUS DIFFERENCES AMONG MEMBERS OVER HOW WEST'S MILITARY STRENGTH SHOULD BE DEPLOYED IN EVENT OF WAR." MIDDLETON SAID CURRENT CRISIS "IS SO COMPLEX, ITS ROOTS SO DEEP, THAT MAJOR EFFORT WILL BE REQUIRED TO GET NATO ON TRACK." HE QUOTED DISGRUNTLED STAFF OFFICER AS SAYING RECENTLY IN WASHINGTON, "THEY OUGHT TO CALL THIS OUTFIT NORTH ATLANTIC CRISIS ORGANIZATION, NOT NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION." VANCE

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